ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method is described for managing plugin program components through encapsulation in a self managing agent that supports introspection for

5   installation. An agent evaluator engine at the host machine interrogates the introspective interface for the agent to determine what resources are required by the plugin. In addition, the engine determines what effect the plugin will have on the host system, and invokes the installation logic which may be contained in the agent. Using the introspective mechanism and installation logic, any changes in the plugin (such as

10   revisions) and the associated dependency changes can be readily accommodated since only a single base of information and installation logic, that which is contained within the enclosing agent, requires modification.